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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

3 DECEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Dublin - Alleged Member of Boogaloo Militia Charged with Child Enticement

(U) A man who federal authorities identified as being part of a Northern California militia linked to the far-right Boogaloo movement has been charged with child enticement, related to alleged online conversations between him and a teen girl, court records show. Robert Jesus Blancas, 33, faces a minimum of 10-years and a maximum of life in prison if convicted of the lone federal charge. Blancas was identified as a member of a militia known as the "Grizzly Scouts" or "1st Detachment, 1st California Scouts" that operates as an offshoot of the Boogaloo movement. Blancas, who authorities say goes by the monikers "Orgotloth" and "MuskOx," came up in an FBI investigation related to the probe into Steven Carrillo and Robert Alan Justus, two Boogaloo members who've been charged with murdering Federal Protective Services Officer at the Ron Dellums Federal Building in Oakland last May. SOURCE: 3 December 2020, The Mercury News

(U) Oakland – Police Arrest Two Suspects Who Allegedly Shot at CHP Officers

(U) Oakland police arrested two people they said shot at California Highway Patrol officers during a car chase. CHP officers tried stopping a car when it sped past them at about 100 mph, after a pursuit, individuals in the car fired on the officers. The CHP officers did not return fire and eventually lost sight of the vehicle. It was later found where it had apparently crashed into a parked car. Police took two people into custody without incident. Police said nobody was injured in the shooting. Authorities have not identified the two people or said what charges they might face.

SOURCE: 2 December 2020, San Francisco Chronicle

(U) Redding – Woman Killed by Police After Ramming Officer with Car

(U) Officers responded to a call about a woman causing a disturbance and threatening a security guard at a local business. A police officer shot and killed the suspect in her vehicle after she used her "vehicle as a battering ram" to run over an officer and flee the scene. The officer injured during the event was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries to the legs.

SOURCE: 2 December 2020, KRCR

(U) Sacramento – Prosecutors Say Prison Unemployment Fraud May Fuel Street Crime

(U) As plots are revealed inside California prisons and jails to scam pandemic unemployment benefits, district attorneys across much of California are calling on state leaders to help them stop, investigate, and prosecute the fraud; aid they say has been slow to materialize as abuses continue. Prosecutors contend that without immediate action to allow investigators to compare EDD claims against inmate rolls, their hands are tied, potentially leaving money flowing from prison gangs to street gangs involved in drugs, guns, and other crimes. Sources with knowledge of the investigation said that although some of the alleged fraud may have been perpetrated by individuals, much of it appears to be organized, with multiple payments going to the same address.

SOURCE: 3 December 2020, Los Angeles Times

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – IBM Warns Hackers Targeting COVID-19 Vaccine 'Cold Chain' Supply Process

(U) Washington DC – IBM is sounding the alarm over hackers targeting companies critical to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, a sign that digital spies are turning their attention to the complex logistical work involved in inoculating the world's population against the COVID-19. The information technology company said in a blog post published on Thursday that it had uncovered "a global phishing campaign" focused on organizations associated with the COVID-19 vaccine "cold chain," the process needed to keep vaccine doses at extremely low temperatures as they travel from manufacturers to the public.

SOURCE: 3 December 2020, Reuters

(U) District of Columbia – US Reports Highest One-Day COVID-19 Death Tally

(U) Washington DC – More than 2,800 COVID-19 deaths were reported Wednesday in the US, the most the country has ever reported in a single day, as health care officials say their staff and facilities are struggling to support burgeoning numbers of patients. The number of COVID-19 patients in US hospitals Wednesday was 100,226, according to the COVID Tracking Project, it also is the highest reported on a given day during the pandemic.

SOURCE: 3 December 2020, CNN

(U) New York - Man Who Threatened Death for Biden Supporters Pleads Not Guilty

(U) Ney York City – A New York City man pleaded not guilty to charges he posted threats online urging the "extermination" of Democrats and killing of people celebrating Joe Biden's win over incumbent Donald Trump in the US presidential election. Brian Maiorana, who prosecutors said is also a registered sex offender, has been detained since his 10 November arrest at his Staten Island home, where authorities said they found a semi-automatic firearm and ammunition. The defendant was indicted on 18 November, and also faces weapons charges. Prosecutors said Maiorana began using social media in September to post threats targeting protesters, politicians, and law enforcement.

SOURCE: 2 December 2020, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – Dozens of Mosques Suspected of 'Separatism' to be Investigated

(U) Paris – In an attempt to combat the rising threat of religious extremism, France will start investigating dozens of mosques suspected of fomenting radical ideologies. The government has launched what it calls an unprecedented action against "separatism" following several attacks in France this autumn. An official said 76 mosques out of the more than 2,600 Muslim places of worship had been flagged as possible threats to France's Republican values and its security.

SOURCE:3 December 2020, Reuters

(U) Mexico – Chinese Businessman Will be Sentenced for Laundering Mexican Cartel Drug Money

(U) Guadalajara – Early next year, a Chinese businessman named Gan Xianbing will be sentenced in a Chicago courtroom for laundering just over \$530,000 in Mexican cartel drug money. Gan, 50, was convicted in February of money laundering and operating an unlicensed money-transfer business that whisked cartel cash from US drug sales offshore. Virtually unheard of a decade ago, these Chinese players are moving vast sums quickly and quietly, authorities said. Their expertise: routing cartel drug profits from the US to China then on to Mexico with a few clicks of a burner phone and Chinese banking apps, and without the bulky cash ever crossing borders. The launderers pay small Chinese-owned businesses in the US and Mexico to help them move the funds.

SOURCE: 3 December 2020, Reuters

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(U) United Kingdom – Multiple Casualties at Warehouse Blast

(U) Avonmouth – A large blast in a warehouse in Avonmouth in England has caused multiple casualties. The explosion took place at a waste treatment facility for the nearby city of Bristol. The fire service said it had been joined there by police and ambulances. A police spokeswoman said they were searching the location to make sure everyone was accounted for but had no details of casualties or cause of the explosion.

SOURCE: 3 December 2020, Reuters

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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